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Consumer Price Index, South Region – November 2016

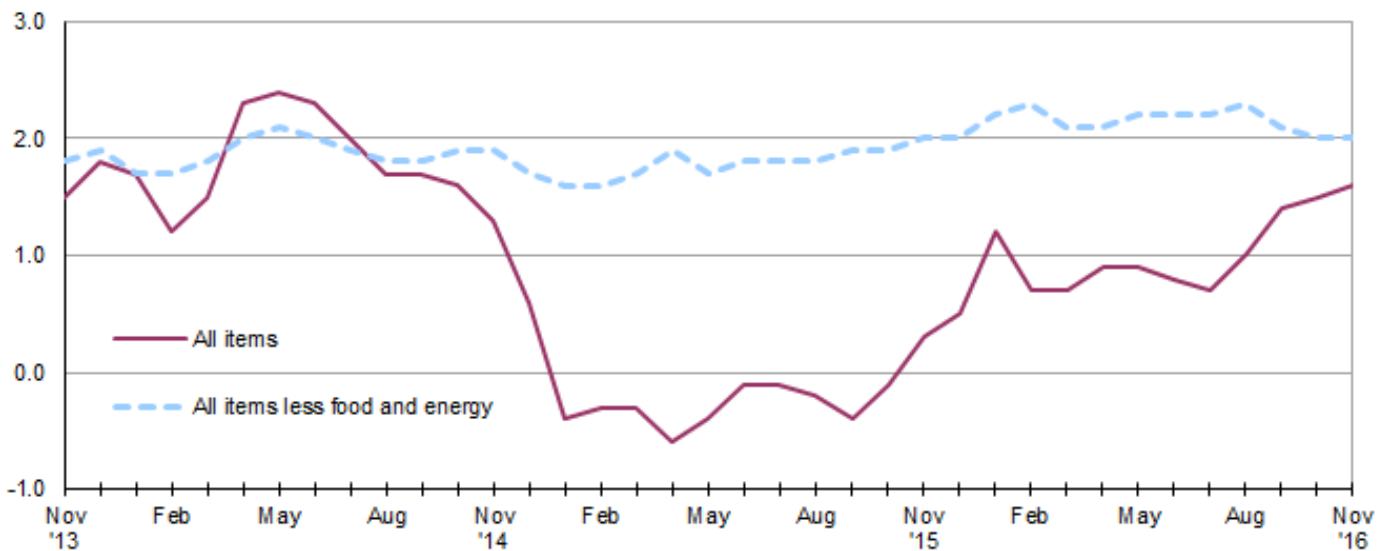
Prices down 0.1 percent over the month; up 1.6 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the South inched down 0.1 percent in November, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. The energy index declined 2.1 percent over the month. The food index inched down 0.1 percent, while the all items less food and energy index rose 0.1 percent in November. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect the impact of seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the all items CPI-U advanced 1.6 percent. The all items less food and energy index increased 2.0 percent over the year reflecting price increases for shelter and medical care. (See [chart 1.](#))

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, South region, November 2013–November 2016

Percent change



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

The food index inched down 0.1 percent in November, led by a decline in the food at home index (-0.2 percent). The food away from home index inched up 0.1 percent over the month.

The food index declined 0.5 percent over the year. The food at home index declined 2.2 percent since November 2015, while the food away from home index was up 1.7 percent.

Energy

The energy index declined 2.1 percent in November, led by price decreases for motor fuel (-3.4 percent) and electricity (-1.7 percent). Prices for utility (piped) gas service advanced over-the-month, up 2.5 percent.

From November 2015—November 2016, energy prices rose 1.0 percent, reflecting price increases for motor fuel (2.7 percent), and utility (piped) gas service (7.9 percent). Since November 2015, prices for electricity declined 1.4 percent.

All items less food and energy

The all items less food and energy index inched up 0.1 percent in November. Price increases for shelter (0.1 percent) and education and communication (0.3 percent) were largely offset by a seasonal price decline for apparel (-1.7 percent).

Since November 2015, the all items less food and energy index advanced 2.0 percent—led by increases in shelter (2.8 percent) and medical care (4.4 percent).

Table A. South region CPI-U 1-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted

Month	2012		2013		2014		2015		2016	
	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month
January.....	0.5	3.2	0.4	1.6	0.3	1.7	-0.7	-0.4	0.0	1.2
February.....	0.6	3.3	0.9	1.8	0.4	1.2	0.5	-0.3	0.1	0.7
March.....	0.7	2.8	0.3	1.5	0.6	1.5	0.6	-0.3	0.6	0.7
April.....	0.4	2.5	-0.2	0.9	0.5	2.3	0.3	-0.6	0.4	0.9
May.....	-0.4	1.6	0.0	1.3	0.2	2.4	0.4	-0.4	0.4	0.9
June.....	-0.2	1.7	0.4	1.9	0.2	2.3	0.5	-0.1	0.4	0.8
July.....	-0.2	1.4	0.2	2.2	-0.1	2.0	-0.1	-0.1	-0.2	0.7
August.....	0.6	1.6	0.1	1.7	-0.2	1.7	-0.2	-0.2	0.1	1.0
September.....	0.5	2.1	0.0	1.3	0.1	1.7	-0.2	-0.4	0.2	1.4
October.....	-0.2	2.1	-0.2	1.3	-0.3	1.6	0.0	-0.1	0.1	1.5
November.....	-0.5	1.6	-0.3	1.5	-0.6	1.3	-0.2	0.3	-0.1	1.6
December.....	-0.1	1.7	0.1	1.8	-0.6	0.6	-0.4	0.5		

The Consumer Price Index for December 2016 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, January 18, 2017.

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 89 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 28 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 87 urban areas across the country from about 6,000 housing units and

approximately 24,000 retail establishments—department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at <https://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/pdf/homch17.pdf>.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The **South region** is comprised of Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.

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Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods South (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Sep. 2016	Oct. 2016	Nov. 2016	Nov. 2015	Sep. 2016	Oct. 2016
Expenditure category						
All Items.....	234.069	234.337	234.029	1.6	0.0	-0.1
All items (December 1977=100).....	379.692	380.128	379.627	-	-	-
Food and beverages	246.124	246.050	245.788	-0.5	-0.1	-0.1
Food	247.447	247.297	247.037	-0.5	-0.2	-0.1
Food at home	237.115	236.767	236.182	-2.2	-0.4	-0.2
Food away from home.....	265.693	265.836	266.057	1.7	0.1	0.1
Alcoholic beverages	227.177	228.258	227.962	0.8	0.3	-0.1
Housing	227.706	227.449	227.337	2.1	-0.2	0.0
Shelter	259.223	260.226	260.571	2.8	0.5	0.1
Rent of primary residence(1).....	267.808	268.955	269.896	3.3	0.8	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(1)(2).....	261.457	262.428	263.060	2.7	0.6	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)(2).....	261.447	262.417	263.050	2.7	0.6	0.2
Fuels and utilities.....	235.682	228.479	226.832	0.4	-3.8	-0.7
Household energy	192.583	184.770	182.759	-0.3	-5.1	-1.1
Energy services(1)	193.282	185.252	183.105	-0.3	-5.3	-1.2
Electricity(1).....	193.321	183.807	180.696	-1.4	-6.5	-1.7
Utility (piped) gas service(1).....	176.981	179.609	184.137	7.9	4.0	2.5
Household furnishings and operations.....	121.655	121.665	120.947	-0.5	-0.6	-0.6
Apparel	135.785	139.363	136.965	0.2	0.9	-1.7
Transportation	195.556	197.032	196.260	1.9	0.4	-0.4
Private transportation	193.812	195.115	194.158	2.0	0.2	-0.5
New and used motor vehicles(3).....	102.438	101.834	101.580	-0.5	-0.8	-0.2
New vehicles	152.553	152.471	152.913	0.2	0.2	0.3
New cars and trucks(3)(4).....	103.834	103.841	104.144	0.3	0.3	0.3
New cars(4).....	152.288	152.259	152.901	0.1	0.4	0.4
Used cars and trucks.....	143.055	140.499	138.408	-3.5	-3.2	-1.5
Motor fuel	186.719	192.419	185.917	2.7	-0.4	-3.4
Gasoline (all types).....	185.815	191.516	184.951	2.8	-0.5	-3.4
Unleaded regular(4)	181.138	186.837	180.168	2.7	-0.5	-3.6
Unleaded midgrade(4)(5).....	205.793	211.713	205.061	3.0	-0.4	-3.1
Unleaded premium(4).....	205.730	210.816	205.984	3.5	0.1	-2.3
Medical care	449.332	448.472	448.405	4.4	-0.2	0.0
Medical care commodities.....	365.160	366.759	364.936	5.3	-0.1	-0.5
Medical care services.....	477.364	475.525	476.165	4.2	-0.3	0.1
Professional services	367.080	366.426	367.724	2.5	0.2	0.4
Recreation(3).....	116.218	116.389	116.476	0.8	0.2	0.1
Education and communication(3).....	136.917	136.266	136.608	-0.4	-0.2	0.3
Other goods and services	416.491	416.906	417.433	1.8	0.2	0.1
Commodity and service group						
All Items.....	234.069	234.337	234.029	1.6	0.0	-0.1
Commodities	180.284	180.964	179.728	-0.3	-0.3	-0.7
Commodities less food and beverages	149.086	150.048	148.456	-0.2	-0.4	-1.1
Nondurables less food and beverages.....	191.404	194.275	191.416	1.5	0.0	-1.5
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	226.285	228.846	225.666	2.0	-0.3	-1.4
Durables	109.229	108.745	108.172	-2.1	-1.0	-0.5
Services.....	288.208	288.084	288.667	2.7	0.2	0.2
Rent of shelter(2).....	266.051	267.094	267.453	2.8	0.5	0.1
Transportation services	326.236	329.382	333.871	5.2	2.3	1.4

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods South (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Sep. 2016	Oct. 2016	Nov. 2016	Nov. 2015	Sep. 2016	Oct. 2016
Other services	338.969	338.439	339.542	1.4	0.2	0.3
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	222.327	222.646	222.329	1.3	0.0	-0.1
All items less food	231.778	232.111	231.795	1.9	0.0	-0.1
All items less shelter.....	225.330	225.297	224.716	1.0	-0.3	-0.3
Commodities less food	151.503	152.471	150.905	-0.1	-0.4	-1.0
Nondurables	217.340	218.802	217.186	0.4	-0.1	-0.7
Nondurables less food.....	193.211	195.986	193.264	1.4	0.0	-1.4
Nondurables less food and apparel.....	225.268	227.699	224.766	1.9	-0.2	-1.3
Services less rent of shelter(2).....	325.096	323.480	324.366	2.6	-0.2	0.3
Services less medical care services.....	271.211	271.203	271.774	2.5	0.2	0.2
Energy	185.958	184.284	180.329	1.0	-3.0	-2.1
All items less energy	240.219	240.703	240.795	1.6	0.2	0.0
All items less food and energy	239.360	239.956	240.109	2.0	0.3	0.1
Commodities less food and energy commodities	147.984	148.302	147.385	-0.6	-0.4	-0.6
Energy commodities.....	189.972	195.691	189.332	2.6	-0.3	-3.2
Services less energy services.....	298.150	298.926	299.819	2.9	0.6	0.3

Footnotes(1) This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

(2) Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

(3) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

(4) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(5) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

- Data not available.

Regions defined as the four Census regions. South includes Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date. Data not seasonally adjusted.